

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 27, 2004, has been received and carefully noted. The amendments made herein and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claim 9 has been amended. Applicants submit that the amendments made herein are fully supported in the specification and the drawings as originally filed, and therefore no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 9-13 are pending in the present application. Applicants respectfully submit claim 9 for reconsideration.

Allowed Claims

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 10-13.

Formal Rejection

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In making the rejection, the Examiner appeared to be unclear about the step of "placing the multiple word lines in non-selected state ..." correlate to conducting the multiple word lines selection test.

Claim 9 has been amended to more clearly recite the subject matter of the claimed invention. In particular, claim 9 has been amended to include in the preamble that "when the multiple word line selection test is conducted, the plurality of word lines and the sense amp group in each of the plurality of memory cell blocks are activated."

Additionally, claim 9 has been amended as follows:

a first step for placing inactivating multiple word lines
in the first memory cell block ~~in a non-selected state~~ and the
sense amp group associated with the first memory cell block;
and

a second step for placing inactivating multiple word lines in the second memory cell block ~~in a non-selected state~~ and the sense amp group associated with the second memory cell block after performing the first step.

By the foregoing amendment, Applicants submit that claim 9 more clearly recite that the present invention includes, at least the feature of inactivating multiple word lines and sense amp group in each of the memory cell blocks at different timing in a state where the word lines and the sense amp group in each of the memory cell blocks are activated in a multiple word line selection test. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection, and that claim 9 be allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 9-13 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited prior art. Applicants also submit that the subject matter is more than sufficient to render the claims non-obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, and therefore respectfully request that claim 9 be found allowable and that this application be passed to issue, along with allowed claims 10-13.

If for any reason, the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper has not been timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300 referencing Attorney Docket No. 108075-00124.

Respectfully submitted,



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